

Cooperative Education is best choice for Kensington student

by Gloria Welton

Exploring jobs

Jillian Doucette is a grade 12 student at **Kensington Intermediate Senior High**. This is her second year taking Cooperative Education.

“Students usually take the course either in grade 11 or 12,” says **Todd Dymant**, Co-op teacher. “But Jillian’s placement at **Kensington Veterinary Clinic Ltd.** went so well last year the employer asked her back. Being at this business has helped Jillian make concrete career choices for next year.”

The Cooperative course at this school has been running for about 20 years. Mr. Dymant says the program has been so successful because of the great support they get from local businesses.

Details

Cooperative Education is available at most Island high schools to grades 11 and 12 students who have a wide variety of abilities, skills, and career interests. “It is an opportunity to get hands-on experience and we are so pleased that students of all academic levels are now taking the program.”

It combines classroom studies with learning through community work experiences that are related to the student’s academic or career goals. Students benefit from the expertise, talent, and resources of community-based service organizations, agencies, businesses, industries, citizen groups, entrepreneurs, and parents.

This one- or two-credit course has two components:

- During the 40 hours of classroom time, students hone their skills in self assessment and career planning. They grow in their understanding of labour market information, employment requirements, health and safety issues, and the links between the knowledge, skills and attitudes they are acquiring in school and their future plans.
- During the placement component, a personalized learning agreement outlines the specific goals for working and learning in the community.

Jillian’s career plans

Jillian says she has been interested in animal care ever since she can remember. “I grew up on a farm and I love animals and want to help them. I knew about the chance to work at the Vet Clinic through the school Cooperative course and I went for it. My uncle works at the clinic now. He deals with inventory and orders

the drugs and equipment. My grandfather also worked at this clinic. I have come to realize that this work setting is a great fit for me as well.”

She is looking into a Veterinary Technician program at either **Nova Scotia Agriculture College** in Truro or **Oulton College** in Moncton. “I would like to come back to PEI to work but I have family in Alberta and I have

an interest in traveling so that could also be an option.”

Based on her career choice, Jillian has made sure she is taking the right courses in high school such as **biology** and **chemistry**. She has also taken the **Agricultural Certificate** program which is available at this high school. “This nationally recognized certificate program is great to have on my resumé as I apply to post-secondary colleges,” says Jillian.



Through a Co-op high school course, Jillian Doucette has been exposed to a career that she now realizes is a great fit for her. “Next year I plan to train to be a Veterinary Technician and I can’t wait to get started.” She is seen here with Emmett, a border collie visiting Kensington Veterinary Clinic Ltd.